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The Secession and Reconstruction of Tennessee. By JAMES WALTER FERTIG, A.M. (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press. 1898. Pp. 108.)

THIS brief monograph, which is Mr. Fertig's doctor's dissertation, undoubtedly possesses permanent value. It contains a straightforward and instructive account of the success of secession in Tennessee, of Johnson's military government and of the Brownlow régime up to the time when Tennessee was re-admitted to statehood. It also traces the thread of congressional debate upon the status of the seceded states and shows how the presidential plan of reconstruction was purposely and effectually thwarted by joint resolution of Congress even in the case of Tennessee. The narrative is not overburdened with details; yet every important event and every significant fact, whether elaborately set forth or merely mentioned, seems to have been properly allowed for in the conclusions reached.

On only one point of importance must the author's statement be challenged. He is mistaken in believing that a "military government" like that of Johnson "was at that time a term unknown to the history and laws both of the state and of the nation." A precedent is found in the last war before the Civil War, in the military government of New Mexico and Upper California both before and after the conclusion of peace with Mexico. It is sufficient here to call attention to two U. S. Supreme Court cases: *Cross v. Harrison*, 16 Howard 164 (1853), and *Leitensdorfer v. Webb*, 20 Howard 176 (1857), wherein the documents and authorities are cited. Varied and interesting are the duties which the military government is called upon to perform in behalf of civil and even of political rights before it is possible to substitute legally established civil government in place of the conquering military power.

The study is quite as interesting from the political as from the constitutional standpoint. Andrew Johnson was conscientious and loyal, but uncompromising even unto vindictiveness. So was Brownlow, and neither was a wise statesman. Mr. Fertig's narrative makes it clear that the oaths which Governor Johnson required of voters in addition to those prescribed by the President irritated the people, outraged the conservatives, aroused the radicals, disclosed their strength, gave them the advantage, led to the reorganization of a radical state government, made feasible the adoption of the Fourteenth Amendment and so led to the favorable action of Congress. Tennessee escaped congressional reconstruction and carpet-bag government by dint of falling into the hands of the radicals, from whom she escaped by a *coup de main* in 1870.

In addition to official publications the author has used files of Nashville papers covering the whole period. Files of other state papers are rare if they exist at all. A file of Brownlow's tri-weekly *Whig*, Knoxville, for at least the first five months of 1861, can be found in the library of Yale University. Typographically the publication is not creditable to the press which issued it.

FREDERICK W. MOORE.